



PRESS RELEASE

8th December 2023

New chapter for air rescue: LAR presents Airbus H145 D3 rescue helicopter

By acquiring the H145 D3, Luxembourg Air Rescue (LAR) has opted for a rescue helicopter of the latest generation. The gradual fleet renewal enables LAR to maintain and further increase the high quality and performance of air rescue services for the population in Luxembourg and the Greater Region also in future.

The Airbus H145 D3 is considered the most modern helicopter currently used in air rescue. It features state-of-the-art technology and, thanks to its new cabin interior, is ideally suited for LAR's life-saving missions. The H145 D3 is the perfect complement to the well-proven MD 902 helicopters, which have been providing reliable service to LAR since the mid-1990s. However, the MD 902 is no longer built by the manufacturer and spare parts are very difficult to find on the market. The renewal of the LAR helicopter fleet has therefore become inevitable and had to be expedited.

Immediate advantages for the patients

The latest LAR fleet member is ideally suited for patient transport. It has a new roll-in stretcher, which, thanks to its retractable legs, can be loaded directly into the helicopter and wheeled out after landing. Patients thus remain on the same stretcher from the time they are placed on it at the scene of the emergency until they arrive at the hospital. Repeated repositioning of the patients is no longer necessary, making the transport particularly smooth, fast and gentle on the patient's spine. LAR's H145 in the latest D3 version has a five-blade rotor, which ensures very low vibration during flight and thus guarantees maximum patient comfort – an advantage that is particularly important for the transport of sensitive trauma patients.

The Airbus helicopter also features a spacious, newly equipped cabin with a flexible configuration that can be changed quickly if necessary. A new type of equipment mount allows ergonomic access to all medical devices and ensures optimal working conditions for the benefit of the patients.

Latest technology for maximum flight safety

LAR's new helicopter model features state-of-the-art technology. It has an ultra-modern cockpit and an avionics system of the latest generation. Several large screens display all relevant information for the pilot. In addition, the H145 D3 is equipped with an advanced collision warning system, a weather radar and a sophisticated 4-axis autopilot. During secondary missions, the H145 D3 can also be operated under instrument flight rules, allowing pilots to fly the helicopter safely even in difficult weather conditions with limited visibility. These features enable LAR to carry out its life-saving missions while ensuring maximum safety for both patients and crew.

Thanks to its comprehensive equipment, the H145 D3 offers a very wide range of uses. On the one hand, it is ideally suited for emergency missions, for example in the event of traffic and leisure accidents or for providing care to patients with life-threatening conditions, such as strokes or heart attacks. On the other hand, it is ideally equipped for intensive care transports of patients to specialised hospitals in neighbouring countries. For this purpose, it can also be fitted in just one move with special medical equipment such as the transport incubator co-developed by LAR or a device for extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

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The optimal rescue helicopter for Luxembourg and the Greater Region

“Thanks to its wide range of operations, its high efficiency both in operations and maintenance and its modern cabin equipment, the H145 is the best rescue helicopter for Luxembourg and the Greater Region”, explains LAR President René Closter, highlighting the benefits of the new helicopter. “The H145 D3 will enable LAR to maintain the excellent quality of its flight operations and thus ensure efficiency and safety in providing continuous care to its members and patients.”

In a first phase, Luxembourg Air Rescue is acquiring two Airbus H145 D3s. With its fleet of rescue helicopters, LAR completed 1,396 flight hours from its three operational bases last year and carried out no fewer than 2,351 missions. This is the highest number of rescue and intensive care transports since LAR was founded 35 years ago.

Founded in 1988, Luxembourg Air Rescue (LAR) has approximately 180,000 members and currently operates seven rescue helicopters, two Airbus H145 D3 and five MD902s. Through its operational subsidiary Luxembourg Air Ambulance (LAA), LAR also operates four state-of-the-art ambulance jets, including three Learjet 45XRs and a Challenger 605. LAR's mission is to save the lives and preserve the health of people in medical need - in Luxembourg, the Greater Region and worldwide - through the use of rescue helicopters and ambulance jets. With approximately 190 employees, LAR ensures the highest standards in the areas of medicine, technology and flight operations and is available with its alarm centre 24/7 and 365 days a year. The motto «air rescue without borders» is a living reality at LAR: in December 2020, Luxembourg Air Rescue was awarded the 2020 Adenauer-De Gaulle Prize for its outstanding cross-border achievements during the Corona crisis. www.lar.lu

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